



# Market Bulletin

Bob Odom, Commissioner

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September 15, 2005



## KATRINA

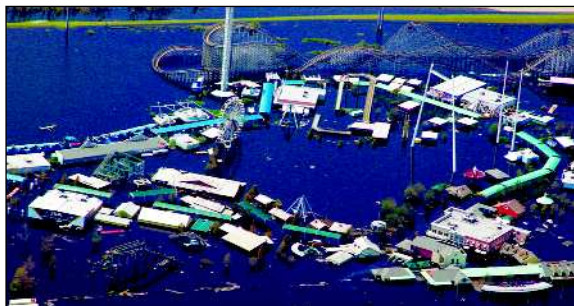
### August 29, 2005



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the people affected by Hurricane Katrina.



The sign on I-10 says it all (top left). Boats clog a waterway near the mouth of the Mississippi River and a citrus orchard sits under water in Plaquemines Parish (top middle and below). The I-10, I-610 interchange in New Orleans is impassable (above).



Photos by Larry Michaud & Kevin Criddle



City Park's Tad Gormley Stadium is filled with water instead of cheering fans (middle of page). Six Flags New Orleans (clockwise from above left); Ocean-going vessels pushed onto the highway in Plaquemines; Grand Isle; the Fairgrounds race track and stables in New Orleans.

The I-10 twinspan is destroyed (from top down). The breach in the 17th Street canal (left); water moves back into the Industrial canal (right); contractors repair the 17th Street canal levee; rooftops in New Orleans East; downed sugarcane in the River Parishes.



# More Katrina photos, *continued from page 1*



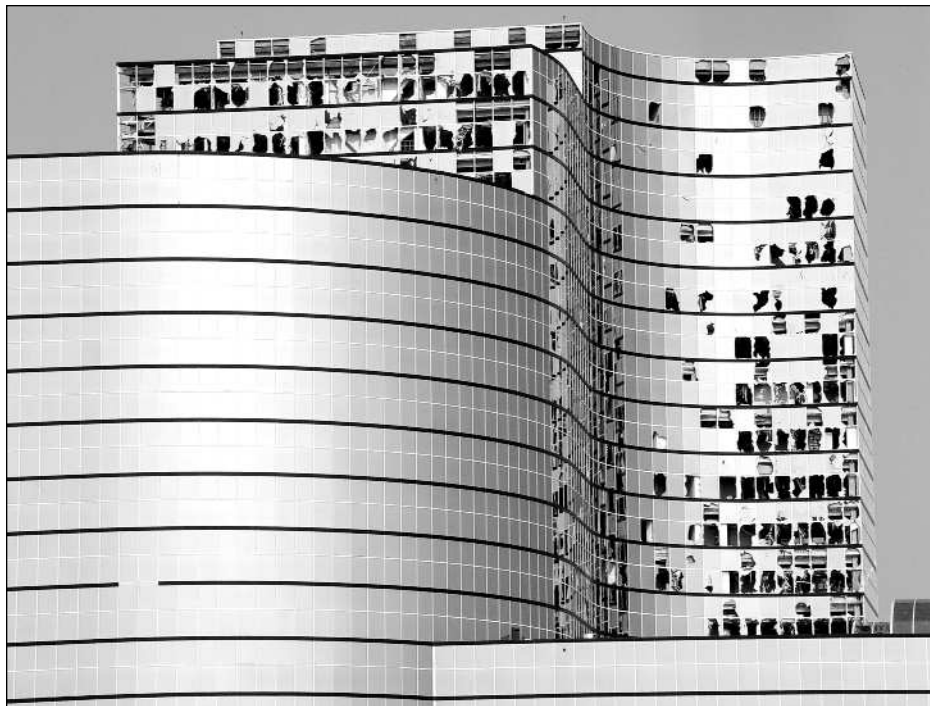
Photos by Larry Michaud & Kevin Criddle



*At press time, parts of metro New Orleans sit under several feet of water and some people are still waiting to be rescued. In future issues, we hope to show you more pictures of relief efforts by the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the rebuilding of southeast Louisiana.*



One of the cemeteries near the I-10, I-610 interchange (clockwise from top left); the Superdome; a Slidell subdivision; pleasure boats washed ashore into a parking lot in New Orleans East; a destroyed train track heading into New Orleans; Veterans Memorial Blvd. is one of many major thoroughfares flooded by the storm; windows blown out at the Galleria office building in Metairie; a heliport in southern Plaquemines Parish with submerged cars and a destroyed hangar; looking at the New Orleans skyline from the northeast - to the left is the French Quarter and Mississippi River to the right is I-10. The French Quarter is relatively dry compared to the north side of Rampart Street near Armstrong Park.



# Coming Your Way

**Deep South Stock Horse Show** Association will hold open horse shows Sept. 17, Oct. 1, Oct. 15 and Oct. 29 at Shady Park Arena in Baton Rouge.

The shows include Western judged and timed events.

Halter begins at 9 a.m., judged at 10:30 a.m. and speed after 1 p.m.

High point and high point reserve awards will be presented at each show. Points will accrue for end-of-the-year awards.

For more information, contact Jenny Redhead at (225) 978-2447.

**Acadiana Bird Club** will host its 25th Bi-Annual Bird Fair Sept. 24-25 at the Heyman Center in Lafayette.

Hours of operation are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Sunday.

Birds will be on display to view and information will be available.

For more information, contact Grace at (337) 364-0113 or Carol at (337) 332-3134.

**Pedersen & Pedersen** will have auctions Sept. 24 and Oct. 29 in Lake

Charles and Sulphur.

The September auction will feature items from the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office, school board, police jury and area contractors and farmers. The sale will be held at the school board maintenance facility in Chennault Air Park.

The October Annual Select Ranchers and Breeders Quarter Horse Sale is being held in conjunction with a ranch horse competition.

The events will begin with the competition at 9 a.m. and the sale at 2 p.m. at the WesCal Arena in Sulphur.

For more information, visit the site **Livingston Horse Show** Association has a show scheduled for Sept. 24 at South Park in Denham Springs.

All shows begin at 9 a.m.

Events include halter, performance classes, English and gaited, timed, novice horse and rider classes, and lead-in classes for non-riders.

For more information, contact Deloris Sanchez at (225) 664-3150 or Wanda Johnson at (225) 664-3169.

**Calcasieu Horseman's Club** will host open horse shows Sept. 24, Oct. 30 and Nov. 5 at the Burton Arena in Lake Charles.

The shows are PAC approved and feature four age divisions and classes for special needs riders.

Classes include halter, color, showmanship, leadline, Western and English disciplines, reigning and speed events.

Seven additional shows are planned for the remainder of the year.

For more information, contact (337) 528-9441 or (337) 794-0662.

**An off-road trail ride** is being sponsored by Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church at 9 a.m. Sept. 25 at the chapel grounds on Hwy. 95 in Chataignier.

The ride will travel mostly field trails with some black top, gravel and wooded areas.

Registration is from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. Wagon rides and restrooms will be provided. Food and drinks are available but no ice chests will be allowed on the church grounds or

trail ride.

Campers are welcome but hookups are not available.

For more information, contact Lionel Manuel at (337) 885-2991 or the church office at (337) 885-3223.

**The Honeybee Breeding, Genetics and Physiology Laboratory** in Baton Rouge will hold its annual field day at 10 a.m. Oct. 8 in Baton Rouge.

Topics will include annual cycle of a honeybee colony, selling honey, pest and disease management, Russian honeybees, the small hive beetle and bee management.

The gates will open at 9 a.m. and activities will last until 3:30 p.m. Registration must be completed before Sept. 26. A \$10 registration fee includes refreshments and a catered lunch.

Please mail registration to John Harbo, Honey Bee Lab, 1157 Ben Hur Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70820.

For more information, contact Jose Villa at (225) 767-9293, John Harbo at (225) 767-9288 or Billy Hummer

at (225) 742-3541. Additional information is also available on the Web site [www.labeekeepers.org](http://www.labeekeepers.org).

**Cajun Country Miniature Horse Club** is holding a miniature horse fun show and sale at 10 a.m. Oct. 15 at Lamar-Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales.

Classes include halter, jumping, cart, liberty, costume and several geared to youth. Entry fee is \$15 per person for all classes.

Admission is free.

For more information, contact Gene Burns at (225) 622-1732.

**Southern Forest Heritage Museum** presents Machine Shoppe Day, Bluegrass Festival and Antique Car & Motorcycle Show from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Oct. 15 in Long Leaf.

See live demonstrations of a 1920s overhead flat belt-driven machine shop and blacksmith forge.

Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for children 6-12 years old and \$2 for members.

For more information, contact the museum at (318) 748-8404.



**Karlton checks a loose latch on the combine's cutters. The Methvins can do most repairs, but need a JD technician if an electronic component fails (left). Karlton's combine continues cutting corn as employee James Moody maneuvers a grain cart under the off-loading grain auger (above). Field corn is planted in March and has dried to grain feed quality by late August (right). Multiple gauges on the combine monitor machine functions and harvest rates (below).**

## Louisiana corn, continued from page 12

said. "Fertilizer costs are up 30 to 40 percent and may be more than that now."

The Methvins can temporarily afford to hedge bets on corn price futures because they hold their grain in their own storage bins in Natchitoches for as long as possible while they wait for more favorable prices.

"The price is not where it needs to be with these inputs I can tell you

that," Karlton said. "We'll try to hold on to it as long as possible and hopefully the price will go up."

But he admits it's a guessing game.

"They may have a shorter crop in the Midwest than expected, I don't know because their crop comes in later than ours," Karlton said. "They did have an extended drought."

Methvin and other farmers in the

Red River valley dodged the Hurricane Katrina bullet and were busy cutting corn the day the killer storm hit. And considering the dry conditions Louisiana experienced this summer, Methvin is pleased with his harvest.

"It's a miracle this corn grew like it did. I think we'll get a little more than 120 bushels to the acre," he said. "And that's good for the amount of rain we got this season. It's about what I expected."

While the Methvins are finishing with the corn harvest, their 750 acres of soybean is being cut by an independent farming contractor. After the soybeans are in, they'll turn their attention to the 1300-acre cotton harvest.

Kenneth sits back in a folding lawn chair in the shadow of the combine shed at the Campti field and marvels at the scope of today's harvesting techniques.

"In my time I was farming 450

acres of cotton and making money," the elder farmer said. "But now Karlton and Tim are planting more than 4,000 acres. We have 2,000 just in corn. We could have more than that, but it's hard to find good labor."

But Karlton seems plenty satisfied with a 4,000 acre farm.

"I'm going to stay where I'm at," Karlton grinned. "There's more land, but we work enough as it is."

"We're going to stay like we're doing right

now and hope the prices will go up because that input column is going way up."





Visit your local farmers market

ALLEN PARISH

Oakdale

Oakdale Farmers Market  
Hwy. 165 btwn. 6th & 7th aves.  
Sat. 7 a.m. until sold out  
June-July

BIENVILLE PARISH

Gibbsland

Gibbsland Farmers Market Assoc.  
Main Street  
Wed. & Sat. 7 a.m.  
until sold out  
June - Oct.

CADDO PARISH

Shreveport

Festival Plaza Farmers Market  
river front at Festival Plaza  
Wed. & Sat. 6:00 - 11 a.m.  
June 5-July 31  
Sat. only Aug. 1-28

CALCASIEU PARISH

Lake Charles

Charlestown Farmers Market  
1001 Ryan Street  
Sat. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Dates TBA

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

Baton Rouge

Red Stick Farmers Market #1  
On Fifth St. near Main & Galvez  
Parking Garage  
Sat. 8 a.m.- noon.  
Jan.-Dec.  
Red Stick Farmers Market #2  
8470 Goodwood Blvd.  
Unitarian Church Parking Lot  
Tues. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
May-July & Sept. - Dec.

Evangeline Parish

Ville Platte Farmers Market  
11 East Main Street  
Fri. 5 p.m.-7 p.m.  
Summer schedule TBA

IBERIA PARISH

New Iberia

Teche Area Farmers Market  
Iberia St. & Main St.  
Tues. 4 - 7 p.m.  
Sat. 7 - 10:30 a.m.  
year round

LAFAYETTE PARISH

Lafayette

Acadiana Farmers Market  
801 Foreman Dr. & Dulles St.  
Tues., Thurs. & Sat.  
5 - 10 a.m.

Jan. - Dec.

LAFOURCHE PARISH

Thibodaux

Thibodaux Main Street Market  
310 West 2nd Street  
Sat. 7 - 11 a.m.  
April-July & Sept.-Dec.

MADISON PARISH

Tallulah

Tallulah Farmers Market  
408 N. Cedar St., Hwy. 165  
Tues., Thurs. & Sat.  
8 a.m. - noon, May-Nov.

NATCHITOCHES PARISH

Natchitoches

Cane River Green Market  
Cane River Bank  
Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
April - Nov. 15

ORLEANS PARISH

New Orleans

Crescent City Farmers Market  
Locations:  
#1-700 Magazine St. & Girod St.  
Saturday 8 a.m. - noon  
Jan. - Dec.

#2 - Uptown Square, 200

Broadway

Tues. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Jan. - Dec.

#3 - French Market Place &  
Governor Nicholls

Wed. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Jan. - Dec.

#4 - American Can Parking Lot  
3700 Orleans Ave.

Thurs. 3 p.m.-7 p.m., year round

OUACHITA PARISH

Monroe

Monroe Farmers Market  
1212 Washington St.  
Mon. - Sat.  
6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

June - Aug. 20

West Monroe

West Monroe Farmers Market  
1700 North 7th St.  
Mon. - Sat.  
6 a.m. - 6 p.m.

ST. LANDRY PARISH

Opelousas

St. Landry Farmers Market  
952 East Landry St., Hwy. 90  
Tues., Thurs. & Sat.  
6 a.m. - 11 a.m., Jan.-Dec.

ST. MARTIN PARISH

St. Martinville

St. Martinville Creole Farmers  
Market  
Evangeline Blvd. & Main St.  
Sat. 9 a.m. - 12:30, May-Dec.

ST. TAMMANY PARISH

Covington

Covington Farmers Market  
City Hall, 609 North Columbia  
Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Wed. noon - 4 p.m.  
Jan. - Dec.

Mandeville

Mandeville Trailhead Community  
Market  
675 Lafitte St.  
Sat. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

TANGIPAHOA PARISH

Hammond

Cate Square Farmers Market  
Charles St. & Oak St.  
Sat. 9 a.m. - noon, Jan. - Dec.

TERREBONNE PARISH

Houma

Cajun Farmers Market of Houma  
- Terrebonne  
Tunnel Blvd. & Naquin St.  
Mon. - Sat.

6 a.m. - 6 p.m., Jan. - Dec.

WASHINGTON PARISH

Bogalusa

Bogalusa Farmers Market  
500 Block of Columbia St.  
Sat., 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Jun. - Oct. 2

WEST FELICIANA PARISH

St. Francisville

St. Francisville Farmers Market  
agricultural pavilion (4-H Barn)  
Wilcox St.  
Thurs. 1:30-5:30 p.m., May-Nov.

WINN PARISH

Winnfield

Winn Farmers Market  
301 West Main & St. John St.  
Tues., Thurs. & Fri. 7 - 10 a.m.  
June & July  
Thurs. 7 - 10 a.m., Aug. - Nov.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES

Oct. 13 issue: Deadline Thurs., Sept. 22, noon  
Oct. 27 issue: Deadline Thurs., Oct. 6, noon  
Nov. 10 issue: Deadline Thurs., Oct. 20, noon  
Nov. 24 issue: Deadline Thurs., Nov. 3, noon

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING FORM  
TO SUBMIT ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE/WANTED (CIRCLE ONE)

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City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Ad Copy - 25 Word Limit

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All information must be **complete** and **price** of each item for sale must be listed. Ads not meeting these requirements will not be printed. See other regulations under individual headings. Mail ads to P.O. Box 3534, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3534. Email ads to marketbulletinads@ldaf.state.la.us or fax to 225-922-1253.

Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry  
Federal - State Livestock Market News Prices  
Prices represent averages per hundred weight  
Prices for week ending 09/02/05  
CATTLE PRICES FROM PRESENT AND PAST

	This Week	Last Year	Five Years Ago
Slaughter Cows Utility	\$51.63	\$52.63	\$37.55
Feeder Steers 400-500 lbs.	\$124.50	\$123.80	\$94.19
Feeder Heifers 400-500 lbs.	\$116.88	\$115.05	\$85.32



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY

Market Bulletin, P.O. Box 91081, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9081, (225) 922-1284



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***Too wet at the wrong time, too dry at the wrong time. And then there are fuel prices: going nowhere but up, up, up. The story of a northwest Louisiana corn, cotton and bean farming family is typical of much of the year in Louisiana agriculture.***

**By Sam Irwin**

**T**he smell of fresh cut corn stalks permeates the air, and for city slickers it smells good. It's a down home, countrified, get-back-to-nature aroma.

But Karlton Methvin of Natchitoches, sitting high above the 150-acre field in the cab of his air-conditioned John Deere combine, doesn't notice the maize fragrance anymore.

He's more in tune with the sounds of the mammoth cutting machine.

An angry beep-beep-beep from the load sensor tells him the combine's hopper is full of husked dry corn grain. The racket of a few hard kernels spilling onto the combine roof tells him he may have pushed the load limit of his hopper a bit too far. In a maneuver that would rival a C-130 tanker airship completing a mid-air fueling mission, a smaller JD tractor towing an empty grain cart pulls alongside the loaded combine. Keeping the grain cart in his peripheral vision, Methvin

quickly presses a button on the hand-held controller to engage the off-loading boom auger. The auger swings out so it is perpendicular from the corn cutter, it's mouth positioned over the 200-bushel-capacity grain cart. The auger whirs to life and dumps the little gold nuggets into the moving wagon while the combine relentlessly moves ahead on its mission to cut, strip and remove every single ear of corn from the field's dried stalks.

Methvin and his brother, Tim, are fourth-generation farmers from the Red River bottomland. Their 71-year-old father, Kenneth, is still a partner in the Methvin Farms operation.

Times have changed since the elder Methvin was a full-time cotton farmer.

"Back then, I grew just enough corn to feed our livestock," Kenneth said. "We had some beef cattle, but everything else was cotton."

Now his sons have more than

2,000 of their 4,000 acres of farmland invested in corn.

"We started planting corn 12-years ago as a rotation deal basically," Karlton said from the cab of his John Deere 9760 STS combine. "But right now we're planting more corn than cotton. When the market went kablooeey, we went to corn."

Rotating corn and cotton returns organic matter to the soil, said Louisiana Dept. of Agriculture and Forestry pesticides director Bobby Simoneaux, and is a standard operating procedure for producers.

"If a farmer keeps a field in cotton too long, he may develop weeds that don't respond to broad-leaf herbicides or insects resistant to cotton pesticides," Simoneaux explained. "When he plants corn, which is a grassy plant, he can use a different type of herbicide and pesticide. It's just a good farm management practice."

Dr. John Andries, recently retired from the LDAF, added that crop rotation also helps control plant diseases and nematodes.

The Methvins are growing what is commonly referred to as field corn in agricultural circles. Field corn stalks, unlike sweet corn, produce only one ear of corn per plant. A hardy plant, field corn is a tall annual cereal grass and is widely cultivated in nearly every state. It is now, and has been, the principal cereal in Mexico and Central and South America since pre-Columbian times.

And while field corn, also known as roasting ears, can be boiled and can be as tasty as sweet corn, it is also ground into grits, milled into meal, processed for starch and sweetened into syrup.

Louisiana farmers grew 51 million bushels on 402,000 acres in 2004. The total value was valued at \$117 million.

Field corn is largely grown in the United States as grain feed for cattle and other livestock.

The crop itself is the first row crop planted in early spring in Louisiana and the first harvested in

late summer. It is fairly low-maintenance and relatively easy to grow, hence its appeal to Louisiana Red River, Mississippi Delta and Midwestern farmers.

"It's not as labor-intensive as cotton, but the big thing with corn is you got to get it done early. You got to get it planted in 45 days," Karlton said. "You plant the corn in March, then fertilize and add nitrogen in April. It comes up and then you spray herbicide the last part of April."

"Basically that's it. You just sit and watch it grow," Karlton said with a laugh, but he could just as easily say, "You just sit and watch it grow and worry about diseases, flooding, hurricanes, tornadoes, hail, drought, wild hogs, insects, nematodes, locusts, brimstone and any other natural or unnatural calamities that could possibly happen." In other words, typical agricultural concerns.

And Karlton had typical agricultural concerns with his 2005 crop.

"This year we were ten days behind in our planting because it was so wet in March," Karlton rec-

ollected. "Then we went into a drought. April and May were so dry it was a miracle this stuff survived, May especially. It was one of the driest times I've seen in my time."

By late August the kernels have hardened and are tinged with a bright yellow hue. It means the stalks are sufficiently dry and ready for harvest. For Karlton, it also means a month of 15-hour days bouncing in the cab of the giant combine cutting 10 rows of corn at a time.

As he skillfully guides the combine back and forth through a 150-acre field near Campti in northern Natchitoches Parish, Karlton begins to contemplate another one of those old nagging farmer concerns: price.

"We hope to get more than \$2.10 a bushel for our corn," Karlton said. "A good price is \$3, but the market price was \$2.10 last week."

He runs through a mental list of expenses.

"Farm fuel diesel is a little over \$2 a gallon and that affects us big time," the Natchitoches farmer ***See Louisiana corn, page 10***

## The Methvins



**Kenneth**



**Karlton**



**Tim**